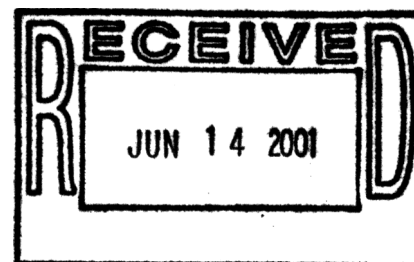




California Cotton Growers Association

1941 N. Gateway Blvd., Suite 101
Fresno, CA 93727
Telephone: 559 / 252-0684
Fax: 559 / 252-0551



June 1, 2001

Whitey Rick - Chief, Research and Promotion Staff
Cotton Program, AMS, USDA
Stop 0224
1400 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, DC 20250-0244

Reference: Request for comments to be used in review of 1990 amendments to Cotton Research and Promotion Act - Docket number (CN-01-002), 66FR 16440, March 26, 2001

Dear Ms. Rick:

On behalf of the Cotton Growers of California, I wish to submit the following comments regarding a review by the Secretary of Agriculture as to the need for a referendum to determine whether producers favor continuation of the 1990 amendments to the Cotton Research and Promotion order.

This Association represents over 99% of all the cotton growers in the state of California and I have heard no negative comments with regard to the current program and the continuation of the same. The widespread support for this program continues even in the face of the difficult economic times being experienced by all in our industry today. I believe this is the strongest testament that can be offered for the continuation of this proven and successful program today. In light of such strong support, it's this Association's position, on behalf of its membership throughout all of California, to declare that there is no need for a confirmation referendum under this act at this time.

Thank you and the Secretary for the excellent oversight of the Cotton Research and Promotion program. The program is well run and is meeting its goals in many areas to the satisfaction of the cotton growers across the country. This program serves as an excellent example of cooperation between government and an agricultural industry and we commend the Department for its supervision of this vital industry program.

Again, thank you for the support and thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

Earl P. Williams
President/CEO



100% COTTON